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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/782,806	02/23/2004	Jan Roelof van der Meulen	1203.080	5460
7590	02/09/2006		EXAMINER	
Liniak, Berenato & White Ste. 240 6550 Rock Spring Drive Bethesda, MD 20817				QIN, JIANCHUN
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2837	

DATE MAILED: 02/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/782,806	MEULEN, JAN ROELOF VAN DER	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jianchun Qin	2837	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 January 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Upon further consideration of Applicant's argument received on 01/11/2006, the finality of the office action of 10/19/2005 is hereby withdrawn and replaced by the following office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kuijpers (3,595,119).

With respect to claim 1:

Kuijpers discloses a percussion musical instrument comprising: a set of clave blocks (Abstract) comprising a ridge body made of a solid material (6, the body of a xylophonelike sound producing unit is inherently made of a solid material being known in the art), said body having an open cavity therewithin defined solely by said material (11-15); said bodies having substantially equal exterior dimensions and different volumes of said open cavities therewithin provided to generate musical tones of a variety of pitches (Abstract; cols. 1-2, lines 70-26; col. 2, lines 59-70).

With respect to claims 7 and 8:

The disclosure of Kuijpers further includes: said bodies of different volumes having different thickness of said solid material (col. 2, lines 8-14 and lines 59-70); said cavities include openings having different perimeters (col. 2, lines 8-14, lines 22-26 and lines 59-70).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuijpers.

Kuijpers discloses the percussion musical instrument that includes the subject matter discussed above except: said set includes three clave blocks including a low pitch clave block provided to generate a low pitch tone, a medium pitch clave block provided to generate a medium pitch tone and a high pitch clave block provided to generate a high pitch tone.

In view of the teaching of Kuijpers, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the invention to make three clave blocks corresponding to three different favorable values of pitch tone, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable

involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

5. Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuijpers in view of Cohen et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4898061).

With respect to claim 4:

Kuijpers does not mention expressly: said body of at least one of said clave blocks has a mounting ring.

Cohen et al. disclose a clave block (10), including: a rigid body made of a solid material (col. 3, lines 19-25), said body of said clave block has a mounting ring (38).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Cohen et al. into the invention of Kuijpers in order to produce a robust mechanism for mounting the clave block (Cohen et al., col. 3, lines 59-68).

With respect to claims 5-6:

Kuijpers does not mention expressly: said body of each of said clave blocks is made of plastic material; said body of each of said clave blocks is made by injection molding process.

Cohen et al. disclose a clave block (10), including: a rigid body made of a solid material (col. 3, lines 19-25), said body of each of said clave blocks is made of plastic material (col. 2, lines 22-25); said body of each of said clave blocks is made by injection molding process (col. 2, lines 58-59).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Cohen et al. into the invention of Kuijpers in order to provide a cost-effective mechanism to make a plurality of clave blocks for reproducing the sound of a wood block instrument without using wood (col. 2, lines 20-25, lines 58-59).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments received 01/11/2006 with respect to claims 1-8 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claims 1-8 are rejected as new prior art reference (U.S. Pat. No. 3,595,119 to Kuijpers) has been found to teach the claimed set of clave blocks having substantially equal exterior dimension but different volumes of the open cavities therewithin. Detailed response is given in sections 2-5 as set forth above in this Office Action.

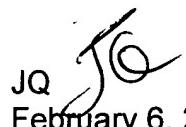
Contact Information

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jianchun Qin whose telephone number is (571) 272-5981. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Martin can be reached on (571) 272-2107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jianchun Qin
Examiner
Art Unit 2837

JQ 
February 6, 2006


MARLON T. FLETCHER
PRIMARY EXAMINER